



AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW: Charles Lee

Letter to Benjamin Rush, November 20, 1776:

The affair at Fort Washington cannot surprise you at Philadelphia more than it amazed and stunned me. I must entreat that you will keep what I say to yourself; but I foresaw, predicted, all that has happened; and urged the necessity of abandoning it; for could we have kept it, it was of little or no use. Let these few lines be thrown into the fire, and in your conversations only acquit me of any share of the misfortune—for my last words to the General [Washington] were—draw off the garrison, or they will be lost. . . .

Source: Charles Lee, *The Lee Papers* (1872-1875).